ent stages, to the northern limits of the town and that the breadth of the Park be increased by reclaiming the shallow portion of the backwater lying to the west of it."

I understood from what was said in this House in answer to a question that there is a proposal before the Government to undertake extensive repairs to the foreshore. I would like to know if, in connection with that scheme, there is the scheme of extending the park in any substantial way, either by broadening it or by continuing it more and more northwards. If there is such a proposal, I do not wish to move this resolution.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I want to announce to this House that there is already a proposal before the Government for the extension of the Irwin Park along with that of the Ernakulam foreshore.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I do not move that resolution.

Hence the resolution was considered withdrawn.

18. Hydrants in Streets and Roads.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—"This Council recommends that hydrants be urgently erected in all the streets and roads of the town of Ernakulam where none now exist".

I understand a good number of hydrants have been erected since this resolution was sent. May I know how many hydrants were put up after this resolution was sent and whether there are any considerable stretches of roads without any public hydrants?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There are several roads in the Municipality where there are no hydrants. I cannot at present say how many hydrants have been put up. One or two are in the course of erection now near the Tatas.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—No hydrants have been erected in any of the public roads.

Mr. V. K Aravindaksha Menon.—But in different parts of the town they have been put up.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know in all how many hydrants there are within the Municipality?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—128.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—What I wish to know is, since it is now admitted that there are stretches of roads without any hydrants, I must submit that these roads should be given their hydrants without any delay at all, because the advantage of having unsatisfactory water supply in Ernakulam will be very much minimised if parts of the town are provided with public hydrants. Water being a great necessity, no excuse whatever should stand in the way of Government introducing hydrants along public roads. There is the question of great unfairness to these people

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who pay water cess. It must be remembered that the Municipality is collecting water cess from all houses, and they are paying one and a half per cent or so.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—2½ per cent on the annual rental.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—More than Rs. 10. Now these houses are scattered all over the town. Apart from the question of public safety, there is the question of fairness to the tax-payer too. (*Hear, hear.*) Whatever may be the difference of opinion between the Government and the Municipality, this matter will not wait because thereby cholera and other diseases will come into the State. There is no reason why we should invite cholera. We have got sufficient trouble with small-pox. There is no reason why we should court these fell diseases. There is no justification for this unsatisfactory state of affairs. There was a controversy going on between the Government and the Municipality and a number of hydrants, which were even sanctioned, were not erected, because of certain difference of opinion. Well, I wish to point out to the Government that any amount of tussle like that between the Government and Municipality should ever come in the way of satisfying the most urgent needs of the public. Water is one of the greatest necessities of man and Ernakulam is notorious for its very bad water. In the absence of this good water we can easily imagine what would have become of Ernakulam. It would have become uninhabitable and we have no excuse whatever for leaving certain parts of the town entirely unprovided with these hydrants from which alone these poor people can drink. There will be no house connections for these people. Whatever may be said about house connections, the argument in connection with the hydrants is far more strong. It may be that a fairly well-to-do man can have water filtered, but if the poor are not given water from the public mains, they drink from the nearest wells and tanks which will be dirty and may give rise to all sorts of diseases. Perhaps this unsatisfactory state of affairs may have something to do with the large number of typhoid cases said to be existing in this town. Probably the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer may be able to enlighten us whether the question of typhoid existing in Ernakulam and the suburbs is not much higher than what it was some years ago, or at any rate whether there is any appreciable dimunition in the number of typhoid cases. Unfortunately we have no statistics with regard to this matter. I do not know if the Chairman himself knows how many cases of typhoid exist now. An attempt was made some time ago to ascertain the number of small-pox cases and we have some reliable data. In the absence of any statistics in the matter we

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are living in a very very pernicious ignorance. My submission is that the Government should move the Municipality, if the Municipality is not doing it themselves, for getting these hydrants erected. There is the question of unfairness to the poor tax-payer and also of the safety of the public. No amount of misunderstanding between those two authorities should stand in the way of providing these hydrants to the poor. It is to bring to the notice of the Government this important matter that I wish to move this resolution.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I beg to second the resolution in the earnest hope that the whole question will be viewed by the Government with the sympathy that it really needs. Without going into the details of the history of this muddle, as I would call it, I wish to say, for the information of the House, that the question of water supply in Ernakulam was brought to a deadlock about four years ago, and the whole deadlock was created on the assumption that considerable waste is being committed by the townsmen of Ernakulam in the use of the water (*Hear, hear*) which is brought to Ernakulam at considerable cost. The difference of opinion between the Government and the Municipal authorities is only with regard to the use of the term 'waste'. It may be that more water is consumed by the townsmen of Ernakulam than is consumed by the citizens of other towns where there is a similar water supply. But to say that there is waste, the Municipality would take serious objection to that statement. I am glad to say that at a census taken recently under the Municipal auspices, it was found that the consumption by the townsmen where there is house service connection is hardly between 10 and 15 gallons per head (*Hear, hear*). Government or rather the P. W. D. authorities, calculating the number of inmates in a house on an average of 6 and also multiplying that number with the number of service connections (....)

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is it not ten?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is ten.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Alright. At any rate, they came to the conclusion that the townsmen of Ernakulam or rather the persons to whose houses there are service connections, were consuming at the rate of 53 gallons of water per head. The statistics collected by the Municipality will clearly show that it is between 12 and 15 gallons. That also, I suppose, is before the metre committee, if I may call that committee the metre committee, and I do not know what use they have made of the statistics collected.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That was not before us; I was also a Member of the Committee.

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Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—At any rate it is before the Government, at least in the shape of a report from the Municipal Chairman who was a Member of the Committee. Whatever that may be, the question at issue between the Municipality and the Government is one of waste and nothing else. But at no time was there the accusation that waste has been committed through public hydrants. Therefore the withholding of the installation of public hydrants can in no way be justified by the other charge of waste which is levelled against the townsmen of Ernakulam. As to the utility of installing hydrants in public streets and the absolute benefit that would be derived by such installation there can be no question whatever. In this connection I would like to bring before the House one little incident. Seeing that most of the houses in a particular locality had their service connections, the Municipality recommended the removal of certain hydrants from certain roads and recommended that they may be put instead in roads which required public hydrants. The proposal was accepted and they were removed, but unfortunately, the second portion of the recommendation was not carried out even up to this moment. This is the treatment the Municipality has received from the Government. I do not wish to take up the time of the House by going over the details. There is no question of waste so far as the public hydrants are concerned. There is no justification whatever in not installing as many hydrants as possible in the nearest future.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I would not have interfered in this debate if they had confined themselves to the resolution. But certain remarks that I heard from the Hon'ble Member who preceded me prompts me also to get up and make certain observations on this subject. There has never been a subject which has given us so much trouble and vexation in the House as this question of water supply. The trouble began from the very first year of the existence of this Council and it has gone to such proportions at a later stage that the Government thought it would be proper to appoint a committee to inquire into and report upon this vexed problem. Now, Sir, any body who listens to this will be struck with one striking fact, namely, the unfortunate results produced by this dual authority exercising over this distribution of water (*Hear, hear*). The only solution to this important matter is that the water that is brought to Ernakulam must be sold *en block* to the Municipal Council at a certain fixed rate by the Government, taking into consideration the expenses, wastage and also depreciation. All included, a certain rate should be fixed and the water should be delivered to the charge of the Municipality *en block*. The Chief Engineer and his Assistant should have nothing to do with the distribution

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of the water, once it is handed over to the Municipality. The Municipal Council must be left to the tender mercies of the rate-payers who are capable of dealing with them if they do not behave better. There is only a limited quantity of water now supplied at Ernakulam, because there is an agreement with the sister Government and water can be taken only in a limited quantity, and all the water that is brought to Ernakulam, a very good portion of it is made use of by a number of houses by taps, and it is those who have taps who object to the introduction of any method for the restriction of waste. I repeat there is a lot of wastage. There are houses with five and six taps and also shower baths; there are houses which use a large quantity of water for gardening purposes; there are houses which have got cemented tanks which are filled with water to take plunch bath; at the same time there are houses which have not drop of water to drink. If there is an unlimited supply of water certainly there is no need for restriction. Because the quantity is restricted and the amount of money to be spent is also restricted, we must also resort to some sort of restriction in the use of water. What that restriction is, is a matter for the Municipal Council to decide and not for the Government. But the Municipality has not got its resources to get Alwaye water to Ernakulam, because it requires the resources of the P. W. D. But I do not think that the P. W. D. should interfere in the distribution of this water. If we come to such an agreement this question of putting pipe lines, metering and putting up hydrants, all these will be settled by the Municipal Council. I think that, if the Municipalities are not willing to do this, then I submit, the Municipal Councils have not to complain for any restrictions that the Government may impose. I have repeatedly and vehemently protested that the public fund is being utilised for specific areas. I do again enter my emphatic protest against money spent upon water for Ernakulam. The amount of money spent is tremendous. About 25 lakhs have already been spent.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You are wrong.

Dr. A R. Menon.—You will correct me, if you like, when your turn comes. At least you have spent 20 lakhs of rupees, I think Not a single pie out of this has been charged by the Government on the Municipality. After all this trouble and worry, only a very limited number of houses, say 600, have been supplied with water and those people who have taps are the very people who insist upon the Members of the Committee and the Members of this House, when they should press upon the Government the absolute necessity, the advisability and the feasibility of introducing the metre system which is the only way by which you

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can get over this difficulty. So far as the installation of hydrants in public streets is concerned, I do not think there will be any one who will raise a voice of protest against that. Our view is, if house service connections are not possible, at least public hydrants may be put up in the streets of Ernakulam. I am forced to say that the Government must consider not the needs of the rich, but the poor. (*Hear, hear*). Water is absolutely essential for life; it is also necessary that the Government should investigate again and see whether the Municipality is willing to undertake this burden on their shoulders. If the Municipality is not willing, they should be bluntly told that, since the Government have undertaken this work, it is the duty of the Municipalty to accept the terms dictated by the Government.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The question of installing more public hydrants in Ernakulam is pending with the Government, and they could not pass final orders on the report of the meter committee, as you put it, appointed to go into the question of water supply. As soon as orders are passed on that report Government will lose no time in ordering street hydrants to be put up in all the streets, so far as the Municipal funds permit. Government have no objection against the erection of public hydrants if the Municipality can find funds to construct hydrants. Government accept this resolution that they will allow hydrants to be put up in Ernakulam as requisitions come from the Municipality. The Municipality has got to put up these hydrants. As regards the duel control that has been touched upon by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur, I may say that the distribution system in Ernakulam requires technical supervision to prevent it being polluted by bacteria. It must be supervised by a technical staff which the Municipality, at present, do not possess. But so far as the administration of the distribution system is concerned, by way of sanctioning house service connection, putting up hydrants, etc., all these are done on the advice of the Municipal Council. All other administrative control is with them. So far as the technical supervision is concerned, I do not think it wise to give the full control to the Municipality.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know who now conducts the bacterial gical analysis of the water ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is being done by the Guindy Institute, once or twice a year.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—So the P. W. D. sends this water to Guindy? If it is handed over to the Municipality they themselves can send it. So the contamination can be minimised, even if it is given to the Municipality.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—To check contamination, the joining of the pipe lines and other mechanical details have to be attended to.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The Municipality has its own supervisors, overseers or the works department to supervise all these. Of course the Municipality has only persons who know a little only of pipe laying.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They should have a technical staff for this purpose. They should know how to connect pipes, to fill up the joints and ever so many details. To deal with all that the P. W. D. has got a technical staff. But the officers in the Municipality are at present incompetent to look after these. They are not at present qualified.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Have you a separate staff for this ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I know how long you have been collecting water cesses from people who have service connections and from those who have none ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have been collecting the water tax, I think, from the time when the first tap was opened in Ernakulam. While in Coiambatore and other places water tax has been collected even when the scheme was proposed.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We are getting wiser.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is a very important matter of getting water for people to drink and we have in this scheme Mattancheri as well included. For a population of more than 37 thousand in that town the quantity of water supplied is only 60 thousand and odd gallons a day. When I put certain questions on this during the last session, the Government answered and said that they have no idea of giving house service connections to Mattancheri till a bridge that is coming is completed, when the pipe line could be taken along the side of the bridge to Mattancheri and then only house service connections will be given. How long we have to wait for all these things I cannot now prophesy. But one thing strikes me, that after all a bridge operation along the back water has to be solved, because we have got the Venduruthi island lying between Ernakulam and Mattancheri and on that island the pipe lines can be brought to *terra firma*. The only difficulty is to span two portions of water lying between Mattancheri and Venduruthi on the one side and Venduruthi and Ernakulam on the other side. I am sure our Engineers are not incompetent as not to be able to solve this problem.

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You are spending a large amount of money now. The amount of money that you are spending for carrying water across the back water to Mattancheri by means of two barges, all that difficulty can be avoided by keeping up an elevated reservoir there at Mattancheri. The difficulty of pumping water from Ernakulam into the barge and from the barge into the reservoir at Mattancheri, all these cost money. Whereas if,—

President.—The Hon'ble Member does not speak on the motion. The question before the House is about the opening of public hydrants in Ernakulam. You must speak on the resolution.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—These difficulties I have already pointed out and I think they must be solved. As far as Ernakulam is concerned, this question of hydrants to be distributed all over this town, has been debated ever so many times and there seems to be some sort of jealousy as to why this little area should be so well provided. Where is it stated that the state should not improve a special area? Everywhere it is so. Each area is taken up at a time and it is improved at the cost of the State.

There need not be any jealousy in spending the rate-payers' money upon a particular area. That is a mistaken notion.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Is the Member opposing the resolution so that he may get more water to Mattancheri?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Certainly, I will not oppose this resolution. I want hydrants to be put everywhere so that people will get enough water. We also deserve to get some water. That is all my complaint. My digression is for that purpose, in order that all people may get water and may be benefited by the pipe system. The trouble is that the P. W. D. is not willing to part with the control of the water works. Ernakulam is the capital of the State and people come from all parts of the state for business purposes. The Chief Court is here, the Diwan's office is here. People from Trichur have to come here for business purposes, peole from Chittur have to come here for business purposes, and they come and all drink the water when they come here. So there is no room for jealousy. It is not really existing. This is a free gift to Ernakulam and should be given freely to all concerned. Public hydrants and water service connection should be extended to all parts of the town. Therefore I support the resolution and say that hydrants must be given in all places and if possible, the control must be handed over to the Municipality, if the Municipality is able to manage it. The Government will be relieved of that amount of expenditure as well. If the Muni-

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cipality is willing to shoulder the responsibility, why should the Government stand in the way? They are competent to appoint people with engineering skill, line men and men with technical knowledge, as much as the Government can. Are there not local bodies which are looking after pipe system with technical men? What is the difficulty? I say if this proposition is brought before the Government the Government should readily accept it.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—The Government had accepted it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No. They are not willing to part with their power over the water works.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am sorry that things which I have never referred to, have entered into our discussion—the controversy as regards the control of the system of water supply, the Committee's report and all that. Whether the Committee has reported, whether the report is satisfactory, I am not just concerned with that all. I am concerned only with the question of public hydrants in the streets. The question is not to give the people of Ernakulam fresh water service connections, or whether the people who have got connections are wasting the water, or whether metre should be erected, or whether the control should be dual, or whether the Public Works Department should have the control. I respectfully submit that it is entirely beside the point. On whatever basis all these things may stand, my proposition remains entirely disconnected with the controversy. Whether the power is with the Public Works Department or the Municipality or with anybody else, the necessity for having these hydrants erected on the public roads remains untouched by any of these considerations. I am very glad to find that the Government have stated that they have no further objection to the free erection of hydrants, as recommended by the Municipality. I suppose that was what was meant.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I accept that. All that I want to say is that this unfortunate controversy between the Government and the Municipality has been allowed to stand in the way of this great, vital, important public utility being given to the public of Ernakulam. If, as stated by the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila, certain hydrants were taken from a public road with the specific understanding of planting them in some other roads and were not subsequently erected, I can only deplore the state of things. The whole outlook ought to be changed. Such questions should not depend upon any controversy or any other thing any more. If the Municipality recommends for the opening of hydrants,

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I say irrespective of any further consideration, whether the final orders of the Government have been passed or if the Government have on any score whatsoever to settle with the Municipality, the Government, I submit, ought to sanction the opening of hydrants on the public roads and the Public Works Department be asked to carry out the work. The Committee's report may not be final, it may not be satisfactory to the Municipality or to the Government. These considerations are entirely beside the point. These requests, I understand, are not being made now by the Municipality, because the Municipality knows by experience that there is no use of sending these reports. Now, in the face of the statement made by the Government Member, the Municipality will, I suppose, continue to send more and more requests to the Government. My only request is that these requests of the Municipality may at once be sanctioned. And even assuming that there are controversies still pending adjustment, the question of opening more public hydrants should not be delayed even for a minute. The controversies may be settled. I am firmly of the conviction, in view of the statement made by the Government Member, that the Government is entirely at agreement with me in my statement of this proposition, namely, the Government will not place any obstacle whatsoever in the attempts of the Municipality to open more and more hydrants. Seeing that we have got it, I do not think there is any necessity to press this resolution. But I may add another word. We have not at all to take the arguments that have been raised in the discussion on the other aspects of the matter, although certain statements were made as side issues. There are various things to be said on the question of dual control or on the question of individual control or on the question of metering and all that. We have distinctly to remember that nothing has been said on these matters, except as side reference which I do not propose to answer.

The resolution was with leave withdrawn.

19. Water beds in Kole Fields.

As the mover was absent the following resolution was considered withdrawn.

Mr. Ouseph P. Kundukulam:—"*This Council recommends to the Government to create water beds in Kole fields covering 100 acres for every 1,000 acres of cultivating Kole lands*"

20. Improvement of Agriculture.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—"This Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps for the improvement of agriculture (after collecting fuller tatistics of the present condition of the agriculturists) by way of—

(1) intensive propaganda aided by magic lantern and cinema shows and free demonstration on the ryots' land;

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